

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 PRS-01 SP-02

RSC-01 /035 W

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R 221737Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5388

AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 9415

LIMDIS

E O 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR OAS CO

SUBJ: REACTION TO SECY'S ABSENCE FROM QUITO MEETING

REF BOGOTA 9339 (NOTAL)

1. BOTH OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC REACTION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE SECY WILL NOT GO TO THE QUITO MFM HAS BEEN SHARPLY NEGATIVE. THE FORNMIN'S CRITICAL PUBLIC COMMENTS (REFTEL) GAVE RISE TO SUPPORTING EDITORIALS IN BOGOTA'S LARGEST NEWSPAPERS, EL TIEMPO AND EL ESPECTADOR AND, MORE EXPECTABLY, THE SMALL DISSIDENT LIBERAL NEWSPAPER, EL PERIODICO. ALL THREE TERMED THE SECY'S ABSENCE AS EVIDENCE OF US DISDAIN AND DISREGARD FOR LA, AND AS BELYING THE DESIRE TO DIALOGUE. THE OCT 22 EDITORIAL IN EL TIEMPO WAS A PARTICULARLY BITTER, INTEMPERATE AND PERSONAL ATTACK ENTITLED "EL INDIFERENTE MISTER MISSINGER." ( THE USE OF THE TERM "MISTER" IN THE SPANISH TEXT HAS A DEROGATORY NUANCE IN THE LOCAL CONTEXT.) THE EDITORIAL, STARTLINGLY CRITICAL OF THE SECY PERSONALLY AND WHAT IT TERMS HIS ATTITUDES AND POLICIES TOWARDS LA, STATES THAT THE SECY IS NO LONGER PERSONA GRATA IN LATIN AMERICAN CAPITALS. SUMMARIES OF THE ESPECTADOR AND PERIODICO EDITORIALS AND THE FULL TEXT OF THE EL TIEMPO EDITORIAL ARE BEING FILED BY USIS VIA THE USINFO CHANNEL, ATTENTION ARA, SO THAT THE FULL FLAVOR OF THE REACTION CAN BE OBTAINED.

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2. IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH THE AMB ON OCT 21, THE FORNMIN

REFERRED TO HIS REMARKS OVER THE WEEK END (REFTEL). APPARENTLY BY WAY OF EXPLANATION, LIEVANO OBSERVED THAT COSTA RICA AND COLOMBIA HAD WORKED VERY HARD TO DISSUADE VENEZUELA FROM EARLY OAS ACTION ON CUBA AND, AT THE REQUEST OF THE US, TO GET THE GOV TO AGREE TO A NOVEMBER DATE. "NO ONE WILL KNOW THE TROUBLE WE HAD", HE SAID. HAVING WORKED SO HARD TO MEET THE US REQUEST, HE WENT ON, IT CAME AS A SHOCK TO LEARN THAT THE SECY WOULD NOT BE THERE. IN HIS REMARKS, LIEVANO WAS VERY CALM BUT CLEARLY FELT AGGRIEVED AND CHAGRINED AT WHAT HE SEEMED TO BELIEVE WAS THE US LEAVING THEM SLIGHTLY IN THE LURCH AS WELL AS DISREGARD FOR LATIN AMERICAN SENSIBILITIES.

3. THE MIN ALSO DWELT AT LENGTH ON THE COLOMBIAN OBJECTIVE OF STRENGTHENING THE OAS AND THE MECHANISM, AND POINTED OUT THAT THE SECY'S ABSENCE WOULD TEND TO DOWNGRADE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MECHANISM AND THE INSTITUTIONS. THE AMB EXPLAINED THE REASONS FOR THE SECY'S ABSENCE, QUOTED FROM THE LETTER TO THE ECUADOREAN FORNMIN, AND EXPRESSED THE USG'S DEEP APPRECIATION FOR COLOMBIAN COOPERATION. BUT WE DOUBT THAT THIS LESSENER HIS CONCERN.

4. COMMENT: THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT AS FAR AS THE LOCAL REACTION GOES, A CERTAIN CYNICISM REGARDING THE "NEW DIALOGUE" HAS SET IN. THE FORNMIN'S, AND UNDOUBTEDLY THE GOC'S, REACTION IS ONE OF CHAGRIN AND AGGRIEVEMENT IN LIGHT OF WHAT THEY FELT WAS A STRONG EFFORT MADE AT OUR REQUEST TO DELAY OAS ACTION UNTIL NOV, IN RETURN FOR OUR ACQUIESCENCE IN AND SUPPORT OF THE PROCEDURE AND ORCHESTRATION. THEY NOW TEND TO SEE THE SECY'S ABSENCE AS A "DOWNGRADING" OF THE PROCEDURE AND THE CONFERENCE, AND A DISREGARD FOR THE TACIT AGREEMENTS. WE HAVE TRIED TO DISABUSE LIEVANO OF THAT PERCEPTION, BUT WITHOUT MUCH SUCCESS.

5. AS NOTED, LIEVANO'S REACTION IS STILL CALM AND RATIONAL, IF SOMEWHAT RESENTFUL. HE (AND THE GOC) CAN HOWEVER STILL BE VERY HELPFUL AND WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT SPECIAL ATTENTION BE PAID TO HIM IN QUITO BY OUR DEL. VAKY

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## Message Attributes

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